

PARLIAMENT OF ZIMBABWE

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2026

The Senate met at Half-past Two o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS

(THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE *in the Chair*)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE

NON-ADVERSE REPORT RECEIVED FROM THE

PARLIAMENTARY LEGAL COMMITTEE

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Good afternoon Hon. Senators. I would like to inform the Senate that I have received from the Parliamentary Legal Committee, a Non-Adverse Report for the following Statutory Instruments, Numbers 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130 and 131 published in the *Gazette* during the month of July, 2026.

INVITATION TO THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE

COMMITTEE FOR THE FUTURE

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I wish to remind the House that all Members of Parliament are invited to the official

launch of the Committee for the Future on 3rd September, 2026, that is tomorrow, from 0930 hours in the Multi-Purpose Hall.

MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS AND DEVOLUTION FOR HARARE METROPOLITAN PROVINCE

(HON. SEN. TAWENGWA): I move that Orders of the Day, Numbers 1 to 11 on today's *Order Paper* be stood over until the rest of the Orders of the Day have been disposed of.

Motion put and agreed to.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON PEACE AND SECURITY ON ENERGY SECURITY IN ZIMBABWE

Twelfth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security on Energy Security in Zimbabwe.

Question again proposed.

HON. SEN. NCUBE: Thank you Madam President. Firstly, I would like to commend the Thematic Committee on Peace and

Security, chaired by Hon. Senator Zindi, for looking into this important issue of energy security. Four fundamental tenets underpin energy security. These are reliability, affordability, sufficiency and sustainable availability. When these four tenets are considered collectively and each is properly assessed, it becomes possible to determine whether a country can be regarded as energy secure.

In this regard, let us consider the institution mandated to provide energy, particularly electricity while energy security is a cross-cutting issue and encompasses other areas including fuel. For purposes of this discussion, I would like to focus specifically on electricity and in particular, the performance of ZESA.

The pertinent question, therefore, is whether ZESA can consistently deliver on all four of these tenets. Can ZESA consistently provide a positive response in respect of reliability, affordability, sufficiency and sustainable availability? The answer would appear to be mixed. In some respects, the answer is yes; in others, it may be qualified while in one or two areas, the answer may be no.

What needs to be done because right now, as identified by the Committee, ZESA is actually groaning; it is suffering under a heavy

debt burden. So, because of that, its ability to deliver in terms of generation, transmission and distribution tends to be curtailed.

However, there are also issues of climate change which come into the picture.

The base load of ZESA tends to come from hydro and thermal. Those are the two base loads of ZESA. When you look at the energy needs, solar and biomass, it is a very small percentage *vis-à-vis* ZESA. Solar tends to be dominated by private players, but let us look at those two which comprise the base load of ZESA. Hydro is susceptible to climate changes, and relying on it consistently is dangerous as we have seen. In some cases, we have used more water than we are allocated and we end up downgrading the generation side. Thermal is a big topical issue right now; coal in terms of activism, in some cases, because energy is a major input component in terms of everything we do. Now, with those two baseloads, let us look at how economy is actually performing.

We use around 2 000 megawatts a day, but we have got an overheating economy within the region, growth of 5%, if not slightly more. Can energy provision match up with our growth trajectory?

That is the issue which we need to look at. Can energy support our economy with the way it is being driven at the moment? Those are some of the questions that arise. We do not want a situation where energy drags us down; energy provision drags us down. We want our economy to continue in the upward trend which has been defined by the Second Republic.

We also look at exports, because our best load and our best energy provision is thermal. We cannot access certain markets because of the charges imposed on us. Mr. President, if they are not imposed now, they will definitely be imposed in the future. Even if we take into account that some of those economies grew to where they are today because of thermal energy provision, we know that the First World countries are two-faced. They will ignore what they did and impose sanctions on others. So, our option now is to go to renewable energy.

Our generation capacity or generation ability has to emphasise on renewable energy. There are a number of power stations which are being built at the moment, particularly by our Chinese friends. There is one coming up in Goromozi, 100 megawatts and coal-fired. There

is another one coming up in Hwange, also maybe 100 megawatts and also coal-fired. There is another one coming up in Beitbridge, about 800 megawatts and also coal-fired. These are private players who have realised that they were not getting consistent electricity from Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority and have decided to generate their own. What does that do to ZESA as an institution?

We have also seen the number of private companies and also individuals resorting to solar. In some cases, some of them are completely off the grid. What is the lifespan of ZESA going forward? All those issues have got to be put together and looked at very carefully, Madam President. At the end of the day, we have to concede that we need energy security to support our economic growth as defined by the Second Republic. Thank you – [HON. SENATORS: *Hear, hear.*]-

HON. SEN. MATIBIRI: Thank you Madam President. I rise to contribute to the report presented to this House by the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security on energy security in Zimbabwe. Energy security is key to Zimbabwe's developmental aspirations. This country has set itself a target, which is to attain an Upper-Middle-

Income Society by 2030. That is Vision 2030. This vision cannot be realised in an environment where the country is energy insecure.

Allow me, to that end, to thank the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security for spotlighting the issue of energy security and bringing it to this House for debate. One hopes that the recommendations contained in that report would inform policy development so that the issue of energy security is addressed and the Government meets its developmental aspirations.

Allow me again to commend the interventions that have been done so far which have led to an improvement in the availability of energy to this nation. The Second Republic has taken noticeable steps towards improving energy security. Gone are the days of rollouts, energy outages and electricity in particular. There is an improvement which must be commended – [HON. SENATORS; *Hear, hear.*] - The question, as I build on the contributions of the past Senator who contributed, is whether the energy situation in this country is sufficient to answer our developmental aspirations, in particular, to address the demands of Vision 2030 or not? That is what we must grapple with.

Energy availability, accessibility, affordability and sustainability are key in the realisation of this vision. Zimbabwe has taken various interventions to address issues of energy security. One is by being part of the Energy Compact Mission 300, which seeks to connect 300 million families by 2030. There is also the National Integrated Resource Plan, and the Battery Energy Storage and Grid Stability Plan. All these are interventions that have been taken by the Government to improve energy security in this country.

I will spotlight one intervention that I think deserves the attention of this House, which is the support that must be given to independent power producers. The report takes note of two success stories of independent power producers who are feeding into the national grid. This could be a unique opportunity provided we can raise sufficient resources from within and from outside the borders of this country to support independent power producers. This will free the energy from the power authority so that it focuses mainly on heavy industries. That way, we are marching towards our vision. Independent power producers could focus more on supplying domestic needs. This must be supported by a well-researched

approach. What are the cost implications of setting up solar farms, particularly sustainable solar farms in this country? We have a lot of solar energy in this country. Mr. President, we also need to take note of what other countries have done, in particular Rwanda. We can learn a lot from what they are doing.

Once again, as I sit down, I want to thank the Thematic Committee on Security for spotlighting the issue of energy security. It is very important and I suppose that this House is going to treat this subject with the urgency it deserves so that we will find lasting solutions to energy security. That will answer our development and aspirations, namely the attainment of Vision 2030. I thank you.

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE. Hon Sen, you have been quiet for a long time.

HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA: Thank you Madam President.

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: You were quiet, someone had to help me with the name.

***HON. SEN. MANYENGAVANA:** I was surprised Madam President of Senate Ma'am; this is my third year. Thank you Madam

President of Senate Ma'am, I would like to debate on the motion raised by Hon. Sen. Zindi. I was among the Hon. Senators that went around to places where our electricity is generated from solar, thermal, hydro and there is also wind where we can also generate electricity from.

Madam President, as we went around, we learnt a lot as a Committee. We realised that the country can generate electricity. We can attain Vision 2030 provided we address the issue of electricity. We were shown hydropower stations. We went to Masvingo, Mutirikwi where 25 megawatts of electricity is generated by a private player. They can generate several hydro power stations which are 300 metres apart, but the only problem is that they are not being given the right to do that by the custodian of water rights, which is ZINWA. So, other players are not allowed to access water.

We noticed that there are some dams that can also generate hydropower electricity like our big dam in Masvingo – Tugwi-Mukosi, and right now they are still talking about feasibility study. We realised that we can get a lot of electricity that can be put into the grid. Masvingo has 75% of water bodies but that water is not being

used to generate electricity, so we realised that as a community, as a country, we should not face this shortage of electricity because we have the potential as a country. We also realised that there is an initiative by the Ministry to generate electricity through solar and the target is 1500 megawatts. The target is 2028 but right now they have not even reached a quarter of the target because those who are able to generate electricity from solar are unable to get funding. They are not able to get tenders, the tenders are not moving well and that is the problem that we are faced with.

We also realised that some people got tenders to generate electricity, for example, in Gurube. There was a women's organisation that got the tender and when we went to that place, the women were not even there. The management disappeared, so we do not even know how to get answers. We only got answers from a person who had been there for only three weeks before. Madam President, I learned that the country needs 3 000 megawatts in order to get sufficient electricity. If solar gives us 1.5, we will have attained 50%. So, even load shedding will be reduced. This initiative by the Ministry is a very good one that can reduce power shortages. Only solar plant

companies can be assisted with all their needs to be able to generate electricity. In Zimbabwe, we do not live in isolation. We also have in the region, companies or countries that have electricity. If our electricity is high and expensive, it becomes difficult for our goods to compete because the prices will be high, which means the workers will have more labour and that will be more expensive; our products will become more expensive. If power issues are addressed, our goods become competitive. I realise that there is another company in Nyabira which started generating five megawatts and now they are at 25. They are doing wonders, they are the ones that are supplying Mazowe. If companies or organisations are given the opportunity to do that, I think by now we will have addressed the issue of energy. If only the Minister would free or open up companies which are able to generate power.

I am grateful to the Government regarding the issue of solar. If you import anything related to solar, you do not pay import duty because it contributes to green energy. So, I am grateful to the Government for opening this opportunity for importing goods duty free that use energy. People were actually appreciating this move.

When these people were given contracts, they were not wasting their money. Government was also contributing, so these are national things that are supposed to help the country; those are not privately owned or selfish businesses. They can be regarded as selfish but they help the country.

There is another issue of wind generated power in Gurube. We realised that is still under feasibility studies. We were told that they need five years to study for them to know how much wind can be used to generate electricity but we realise that private players do not want to assist us in feasibility studies. They want Government to fund then after the feasibility studies, they just want to reap profits. I was thinking if the Government could put laws that after feasibility studies, only parastatals should generate electricity.

For anyone who wants to generate, they should do their own feasibility studies and only be given contracts after that. Sometimes as Government, we may incur losses through feasibility studies and the wind might not be enough to generate electricity, so they would also incur losses doing feasibility studies. During the times when we may

not have water or solar energy, we can generate electricity through the wind and we can be able to export energy.

There are several stations, but most of them are in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East. The other one is in Chivhu. Some of the identified areas have not been set up because there is no funding. If only these private players could pick up these areas so that as a country we can benefit a lot from this. I would like to thank the government because the issue of electricity is very political and sensitive. We think that let us remove these people so that we can generate electricity. If these people who are in power can give us electricity, we will also not say anything. In other countries, electricity is not generated by the government. It is also generated by local authorities as well as private players. A local authority may have a power station to generate electricity. The water that is used to generate electricity just circulates, and the water is still used for consumption. I think that our local authorities in this country should also generate electricity, that can help us as a country. That way, we can earn foreign currency and create employment, as well as stability in the country. Thank you very much.

THE HON. PRESIDENT OF SENATE: I wish after the debate of this important report, the Minister of Energy and Power Development will have to come and give a statement in this Senate. I think they should know that this report is being debated in this Senate because we will be looking forward to having the Minister come and give us some response to some facts which were raised from the debate. I thank you very much for this great debate.

HON. SEN. ZINDI: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN.: MLOTSHWA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 3rd September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT OF THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
JUSTICE, LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE
THEMATIC COMMITTEE ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE ON
THE PETITION RECEIVED FROM DANDE CONVERSATION
HERITAGE ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE KORE KORE
LANGUAGE AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Thirteenth Order read: Adjourned debate on motion on the Report of the Joint Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Culture and Heritage on the Petition received from Dande Conversation Heritage on the Recognition of the Kore Kore Language as an Official Language

***HON. SEN. HUNGWE:** Thank you Madam President. I would like to contribute in a few words on this debate brought by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo. It is very important for us to know that in this country there are a lot of tribes and languages, but if we take these languages and categorise them, they can give us to one language. We notice that this petition brought on the Kore Kore language is as good as Shona or Zezuru language. Our view is that in this country. there are Zezurus, Karangas, Manyika and if you listen carefully, they speak Shona. What it means is, if a Kore Kore person speaks, a Zezuru can understand what that person is saying. If that person says *Yahweh*, then you know what that person means.

If you go to Matabeleland, there is Kalanga, you can hear them saying *unolebeleka*. That then goes to a certain category and some of

their words go to Shona or Ndebele. So, we are saying in this country there is Ndebele language that is grouped like that. There is the Zezuru language which is also grouped like that. As a Committee, we have noticed that, yes, they brought this petition, but we can correct them that they are Shonas. That is what we did as a Joint Committee and I hope they understood. In this country, let us just follow and not change a lot of things. Even our ancestors who put Shona and Ndebele, it may end up giving us problems. I thank you.

HON. SEN. NGWENA: Thank you very much Mr. President, for allowing me to support the report which has been brought here by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo.

Mr. President, I support the findings of the joint Committee on Culture and Heritage and Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs regarding the petition for the recognition of Kore Kore as a stand-alone constitutional language. Let me make it clear here, I am supporting the Committee's findings without looking down on the importance and uniqueness of Kore Kore people, their identity and their cultural heritage. They are an important family member whose feelings and concerns need fair consideration. It is important to

understand that language is an important carrier of culture, history and identity. The Kore Kore community therefore deserves our respect and its heritage deserves preservation.

However, the issue before Parliament is whether Kore Kore should be constitutionally recognised as a separate language or whether it is a dialect or variety within the broader Shona language. The joint Committee considers the matter as concluded that Kore Kore is a dialect of Shona. I support that conclusion. A language naturally contains dialects and varieties. Therefore, the petitioners need to be persuaded to understand that a culture identity does not automatically seek a language clarification. If every dialect were not given separate constitutional status, we could divide the linguistic communities that share a common linguistic heritage. Yet, our objective should be inclusion without fragmentation. At the same time, the recognition of Kore Kore as a dialect of Shona must never mean allowing its special culture to disappear.

I, therefore, urge the Government and our culture institutions to document and preserve Kore Kore oral traditions, proverbs, songs, history and traditional knowledge. Mr. President, preservation does

not necessarily require constitutional elevation. We can protect and promote Kore Kore through education, research, literature, broadcasting and culture programmes while retaining the community's linguistic clarification.

I, therefore, support the Committee's conclusion that Kore Kore is not to be a standalone constitutional language, but a dialect of the Shona language. Let us respect the Kore Kore people, preserve their heritage and at the same time, protect the integrity of Zimbabwe's broader linguistic heritage. We can celebrate our diversity without creating unnecessary constitutional fragmentation. I thank you.

***HON. SEN. BIMHA:** Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to debate this good motion. I would like to commend the report that we got from Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo and we applaud him for a job well done for looking into this matter.

The other thing that we need to know is, there are some words that actually lose a bit of value in English. So, those who are knowledgeable wanted to clarify further that there is a difference between language and dialect and I would like to commend the final words by the Committee, that Kore Kore is a dialect. If we go to other

dialects, we realise that they are further separated, just like Karanga is a dialect from Shona. Those who speak Karanga also differ in how they speak. If you are from Chivi, Chirumanzu or Gutu, you speak differently from those who are from Zimuto, but that does not mean that we are creating a new language. It is just how people from one area to another speak. Some emphasise more than others, but the language is the same. Therefore, today if we say Kore Kore is a standalone language, those from Chirumanzu and the others that I mentioned, will also claim the same. We want to look for things that unite us more than those that separate us. So, I would like to commend the conclusions of the Committee. I thank you Mr. President.

***HON. SEN. GOTORA:** Thank you Mr. President. The issue of languages brought by Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo and their Committee is very important. If we go back to the days of COPAC, it took a long time for people to come up with a definition of language. If you go to Mudzi, for example, if you take someone from southern Mudzi and somebody from northern Mudzi, their dialects differ so much that it is as if it is a different language. The same thing if you go

to UMP, if you talk to someone from Pfungwe, when they speak Pfungwe, somebody from Uzumba may not be able to understand until they go back to the Bantu dialect and how it goes.

Like what Hon. Sen. Bimha said, let us not confuse dialect and language because language is broad. If you look at COPAC, like I said, it was not supposed to take all those years that it took. From 2009, people arguing that we are now starting the debates as well, up to 2013 because we view things differently. The dialect that we have in Zimbabwe, if we were to put them in the Constitution, the Constitution would become voluminous because the dialects are too many. Be it Shona dialects or Ndebele dialects, there are so many of them.

So, I think Government, with its knowledge about this country, went to the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe to allow people with the same dialect to broadcast in their own area through community radio stations. That way, dialects may be preserved and developed - that is Government's initiative. We are not saying that is a language, but we are saying this is a language of a community. If you go to Nyanga, if you hear that radio station, you may think that it is from

Mozambique because they will be speaking in their own language, but essentially it is Shona.

So, the Committee made a very good assessment and this was supported by Government, through giving community radio stations. If you go to Matabeleland where it started, there are so many of those stations meant for people to understand each other in their community. On top of that, the broader language unites them. As Hon. Sen. Bimha said, if we separate them, we end up with republics in one country.

I think this report brought by Sen. Chief Nechombo is similar to what COPAC did. If we do that, we will separate the country and people will not unite. What you call Shona, there are so many dialects. If you were to try and count them, it means you would then be separating and dividing people and that ultimately leads to a lack of unity in the country. COPAC ended up saying, we hear all that you are saying and they ended up saying which major languages, including Sign Language are. They considered those 16 languages so that we may unite people and understand each other. I thank you Mr. President.

^^HON. SEN. FANUEL: Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity. I also like to thank Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo and the whole Committee. When we discussed as a Committee on the petition that came from the Kore Kore people that they want to stand alone as a language, like what Hon. Sen. Gotoru said, the languages that were considered official are 16 and those are in the Constitution.

We realised that, as a Committee, they should get stations according to their communities where they stay. Just like Tonga, there is Dombe. Do you know Dombe? The Dombe people say they also want to speak in Dombe. There is also Nambya. I realised that this can cause a lot of disunity and chaos in the country. We know that everyone has the right to speak in their own language. Are you getting me, Mr. President?

Everyone must be free; just like here in Parliament, someone should be able to speak in their language of competence. If they speak in Kore Kore, Parliament should be able to identify that no language must be better than the other. Every black person in this country must be respected. The Kore Kore people must be respected, but the Kore Kore people should be addressed so that they realise that the

Constitution says we have 16 languages and everyone has their rights. They need to be told with respect that we have 16 languages. Even on television, they must be given opportunities if they are going to dance or speak. That is the reason why we have interpreters and they should not be oppressed but given the freedom.

Without saying much, I would like to thank Hon. Sen. Chief Nechombo as well as the Legal Committee which we travelled with. We agreed on one thing, that Kore Kore is a dialect and it is as good as other languages. I thank you.

THE HON. DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF SENATE: Hon. Sen. Fanuel, I was hearing you very clearly.

***HON. SEN. MUPFUMIRA:** Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to add a few words. I would like to thank the Committee for a good job, looking into the petition by the Kore Kore people. I thought as someone who comes from that area, I could not keep quiet and I need to give support to the petition that they brought.

Let me add my words and try to explain why they thought Kore Kore should be considered. I looked at the Constitution and the

languages that are there. They are Chewa and Barwe and I asked my colleagues where Barwe is spoken. I noticed that it is a very small area where Barwe is spoken and it is in the Constitution. We have English, Kalanga and Khoisan that we used to talk about and under human rights, which faces extinction. There is Nambya, Ndaou, Ndebele, Shangani, Shona, Sign Language, Sotho, Tonga, Tswana, Venda and Xhosa.

I was trying to imagine what they were thinking when they brought this petition. Looking at these languages and the people that are there, there are very few people. If you talk of Kore Kore, we are talking about Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central where there is deep Kore Kore. If I start talking to you here; I think what encouraged them to put up this petition is that Kore Kore also includes Doma, Chikunda which is in Dande. Sometimes learners at school may be taught Zezuru or Barwe and they will not understand anything at all. There is that issue of teachers, nurses and doctors. As they go through training, they must be able to understand these dialects so that learners in schools and anyone else requiring their services may understand them.

If somebody speaks deep Kore Kore, some of the learners will not be able to understand and some may actually laugh. I stood up as a representative of that area, Mashonaland West Province. In the past, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland Central, we were one. I stand up here to say yes, the people who petitioned this were considering themselves because looking at Barwe for example, the population is very few and some people do not even know where it is spoken. I am saying as a representative of those people who brought this petition, I should support them and explain their thinking that I support them. Yes, we accept the findings of the Committee, but we are saying Kore Kore is an institution on its own that is supposed to stand on its own and has its cultural practices and traditions which are different from others.

Somebody spoke about the culture and how we act, but the Constitution is not static. That is the reason why we amended the Constitution recently. We should not say because it is in the Constitution, let us accept new ideas and consider that the Constitution is dynamic. We may consider going to consult those people. Right now, we are on Amendment Number 3 and very soon

we will be going to number 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. So, I do not see any problem. Next time, when we consider languages, let us consider Kore Kore because we are looking at the geographical distribution of the population. What about Xhosa? So, where is Kore Kore remaining? Thank you.

HON. SEN. CHIEF NECHOMBO: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MUPFUMIRA: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 3rd September, 2026.

MOTION

REPORT ON THE DELEGATION OF THE OACPS AFRICAN
REGION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP AND 1ST AFRICA-EU
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY AT EZULWINI PALAZZO,
ESWATHINI

HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA: I move the motion standing in my name; that this House takes note of the delegation Report of the OACPS African Region Parliamentary Group and 1st Africa-EU Parliamentary Assembly at Ezulwini Palazzo, Eswatini.

HON. SEN. CHAPFUDZA: I second.

HON. SEN. MLOTSHWA: Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present my motion.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The meetings of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) African Region Parliamentary Group and the 1st African-EU Parliamentary Assembly were held in the Ezulwini Valley, in Eswatini, from 6th to 15th May 2026.

1.2 These meetings marked a historic milestone in implementing the parliamentary dimension of the Samoa Agreement. It also marked a major shift from a donor-recipient model of OACP-EU relationship to a true partnership framework by focusing on shared priorities, equal participation, and regional protocols designed for Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

1.3 Over three days, Africa-EU delegates shared insights on mutually beneficial partnerships in key priority areas, including peace and security in Africa; youth education and mobility; women in agricultural value chains; culture and creative industries in Africa-EU

relations; critical minerals partnerships; and the future of multilateralism.

1.4 These priorities are in line with the overall aim of the Samoa Agreement, which is to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

1.5 The delegation from Parliament of Zimbabwe comprised the following:

Hon. Lt. General (Rtd.) M. R. Nyambuya, Deputy President of the Senate and Head of Delegation,

Hon. P. Moyo, Member of Parliament,

Hon. Mhlotshwa, Member of Parliament,

Mrs. R. Doka, Director, External Relations,

Mr. M. Mugova, Principal Research Officer,

Mr. O. Muchenu, Security Aide to the Deputy President of the Senate.

2.0 OACPS SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETING

2.1 Chaired by the newly elected Chairperson of the OACPS Southern Africa Region Parliamentary Group, Lt. General (Rtd.) R. M. Nyambuya, delegates exchanged views and identified key priorities that the sub-region believed should guide Africa's common position under the Samoa Agreement.

2.2 Delegates from Malawi, Lesotho, Namibia, Botswana, Eswatini and Zimbabwe took the lead, with support from others, in calling for a united African voice on youth empowerment, poverty eradication, democracy, climate justice, rural development, governance and resource mobilisation.

2.3 Delegates from Lesotho highlighted the importance of environmental protection and also expressed concern over the slow pace of ratification of the Samoa Agreement, while Botswana called for greater public awareness and support for communities displaced by climate change.

2.4 Furthermore, Zimbabwean delegates, together with Namibian delegates, raised concerns about provisions related to sexual orientation contained in the Samoa Agreement, arguing for respect for African cultural values and national sovereignty.

2.5 The Eswatini delegates proposed practical institutional reforms and received full support from other delegates. These reforms included performance-based budgeting, parliamentary oversight mechanisms, linking Samoa Agreement priorities to national parliamentary programmes, and allocating 15 percent of the OACPS budget to youth initiatives.

2.6 The Zimbabwean delegates strongly called for the promotion of local value addition and beneficiation of Africa's raw materials to ensure mutually beneficial trade, instead of continued dependence on exporting unprocessed resources.

2.7 All delegates agreed on the need for reforms to establish independent OACPS funding mechanisms to reduce over-reliance on the European Union. Proposals made included member state contributions based on a formula that considers economic indicators, as well as capped contribution thresholds to ensure fairness and sustainability.

3.0 MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE OACPS

AFRICA REGION PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

3.1 Prince Lindani of the Kingdom of Eswatini who opened the meeting, repeated the urgent need for African countries to speak with one voice on industrialisation, local value addition and youth employment as key pillars of Africa's development strategy under the Samoa Agreement.

3.2 Hon. Yaya Doumba Marius of the Republic of Cameroon, Chairperson of the OACPS Central Africa Region Parliamentary Group who chaired the meeting, highlighted the common continental priorities under the Samoa Agreement. These included peace and security, counter-terrorism, maritime security, socio-economic growth, infrastructure development, local value addition, beneficiation and industrialisation, climate change response and financing and independent OACPS funding.

3.3 Delegates further agreed that the OACPS should establish election observer missions and that the OACPS Africa Parliamentary Regional Group should strengthen cooperation with regional and continental parliamentary institutions such as the Pan-African Parliament.

3.4 Furthermore, delegates unanimously agreed that reports from OACPS meetings should be tabled before national parliaments within 90 days to strengthen accountability and implementation.

3.5 During the brainstorming session, delegates identified possible OACPS reforms. These included aligning the OACPS structure with the Samoa Agreement, establishing standing committees instead of *ad hoc* committees, and streamlining OACPS support staff into a lean and fit-for-purpose structure. Delegates also repeated the need for the OACPS to fund itself, to engage Heads of State and Government to ensure that member contributions to the OACPS are paid.

3.6 In addition, delegates agreed in principle that in order to further reduce dependence on the EU, the OACPS headquarters should be relocated to one of the OACPS member countries.

3.7 Delegates agreed on the need to re-engage South Africa following its withdrawal from the OACPS.

3.8 On another note, Global Gateway, through Mr. D. Rosa, Head of the Strategic Partnership Unit with the OACPS, briefed delegates strategic flagship partnership projects in Africa. Delegates

were informed that these projects include on climate and energy, education and research, health, humanitarian assistance, digital technology and foreign direct investment (FDI). Of the eight billion Euros allocated to the OACPS, Africa was reported to receive the largest share, with 132 out of the 256 flagship projects.

3.9 Despite the reported impact of the Global Gateway projects in Africa, delegates led by the Botswana delegation, expressed concern that development assistance was increasing the OACPS's dependence on the EU instead of promoting industrialisation in rural African areas to reduce rural-to-urban migration.

3.10 Delegates urgently called for Global Gateway projects to directly benefit ordinary citizens, especially women at the community level. In addition, delegates called for the fair distribution of flagship projects among OACPS member states and stressed the need for parliamentary oversight of these projects to strengthen African ownership and control.

4.0 OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SITTING OF THE
1ST SESSION OF THE JOINT AFRICAN AND EU
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

4.1 Officially opened by King Mswati III, represented by His Highness Prince Lindani, the occasion carried a clear message of Africa-EU partnership, hope and Eswatini's growing role on the international stage.

4.2 The speech had a strong forward-looking message, presenting parliamentary diplomacy as an important tool in addressing current global challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, geopolitical tensions and technological transformation.

4.3 His Majesty also reaffirmed Eswatini's support for the Samoa Agreement, describing it as an important framework for advancing the role of parliamentary democracy during geopolitical tensions and for promoting trade, investment, food security, climate resilience, education, and digital transformation between the OACPS and the EU.

4.4 During the same occasion, the Hon. Speaker of Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Mr. Mabuza, emphasized that the Samoa

Agreement has introduced a “more modern and balanced partnership,” noting that parliamentarians now play a central role in shaping this evolving relationship.

4.5 Adding her voice, Hon. Hilde Vautmans, co-chair of the Africa-EU Parliamentary Assembly and Vice Chair of the OACPS-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in the European Parliament, stressed the need to turn dialogue into real political action. She emphasized that Africa and Europe must work together based on mutual respect, shared Samoa Agreement priorities, common interests and shared responsibilities.

5.0 THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR PARLIAMENTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

5.1 Hon Memounatou Ibrahima, Speaker of the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in her video address, praised the OACPS-EU partnership as a strong international and regional framework. She said it allows parliamentarians to respond to geopolitical tensions, economic and

security threats, extremism, terrorism, and to use early warning systems.

5.2 She shared ECOWAS's experience in building effective parliamentary preventive diplomacy, inclusive governance, and a regional parliamentary system. Most importantly, she stressed that peace can only be achieved when youths, women and minority groups are fully included.

5.3 Delegates from Kenya, supported by delegates from Sierra Leon, identified root causes of conflicts as foreign aggression, scramble for resources, unemployment especially of youths who are vulnerable to radicalisation.

5.4 Following remarks by the Malawi delegates who underlined the role of regional parliaments in implementing the Samoa Agreement to boost trade, reduce inequality and fight poverty, delegates from Angola, Eswatini and Central Africa highlighted the close link between peace, security and development, especially through multilateral cooperation. They also pointed to the African Union Peace Fund (AUPF) as a key tool for financing peace and

security efforts, noting that both Africa and Europe continue to face conflicts.

5.5 The delegates urged regional organisations to invest more resources, involve civil society, build trust between governments and citizens and strengthen the role of regional parliaments in protecting human rights and promoting the rule of law.

5.6 In its contribution, Rwanda referred to the Pan-African Parliament and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)'s commitment to ending conflicts through dialogue, while warning against regional inaction as seen during the 1994 genocide. Rwanda explained that, guided by history, it is now committed to peaceful conflict resolution, including its recent deployment in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.

5.7 Eswatini added that instability in one country affects its neighbors, and therefore regional parliamentary oversight was crucial in helping secure peace as what happened in Mozambique.

5.8 The Zimbabwean delegates reminded the meeting that regional organisations and parliaments face serious challenges in resolving conflicts. These include limited resources, poor

coordination and the ongoing tension between national sovereignty and collective responsibility. Such difficulties highlight the need to strengthen cooperation, invest in regional systems and show the political will to act firmly.

5.9 The Zimbabwean delegates also emphasized a key lesson learned over the years: governments, regional organisations and parliaments must work together. Governments provide structure, parliaments give legitimacy and together they can deliver lasting solutions.

5.10 In their contributions, EU delegates noted that peace and stability can no longer be taken for granted in Europe as shown by the Russia-Ukraine conflict. They raised concerns about misinformation and stressed the need for parliaments to defend international law, the rule of law, and human rights.

5.11 EU delegates also recognised colonial legacy as contributory to conflicts in Africa and hence parliamentarians from both Africa and EU should address these challenges, together.

5.12 They also pointed out that Africa continues to face long conflicts such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where

fighting has lasted about 30 years, causing an estimated 10 million deaths, seven million displaced people and widespread sexual violence.

5.13 Furthermore, EU noted that in Sudan, civilians suffer from conflict, illicit financial networks, foreign interference and illegal mining. The delegates emphasized that African and EU parliamentarians must learn from each other and work together. They stressed the importance of representing youths, women, and minority groups, while jointly addressing democratic backsliding, since the two continents are closely connected.

5.14 EU delegates also agreed with their African counterparts that strong governance institutions, especially parliaments are essential for peace which is built not only through force but also through cooperation. They further agreed that Africa's territorial integrity and sovereignty must be respected, alongside greater financial support for Africa-led conflict prevention initiatives.

6.0 YOUTH EDUCATION AND MOBILITY

6.1 The Youth Forum preceded the dialogue and debate on youth education and mobility by African-EU delegates, bringing

together representatives from different sectors, including parliamentarians, youths, students, beneficiaries of education exchange programmes such as Erasmus+, women, politicians, and international organisations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM), AU Migration and the Southern Africa Youth Forum, among others.

6.2 Delegates fully agreed that Africa has the world's youngest population, while Europe has an ageing population, creating opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.

6.3 Delegates agreed that youth inclusion is a political necessity, especially since more than 70 percent of the Sub-Saharan African population is under the age of 30, representing a significant demographic dividend with potential for economic transformation. Additionally, delegates observed that IOM data reveal that by 2022, there were approximately 300 million migrants globally, with three out of ten migrants being under the age of 30, noting that unemployment and the search for better economic opportunities as major drivers of migration.

6.4 Given the statistics, delegates were in agreement that the success of the Samoa Agreement largely depends on young people, as it will help address challenges facing African youths such as unemployment, radicalisation, trafficking and limited opportunities.

6.5 Even as youths migrate, delegates realised that they face further challenges relating to the fact that many young migrants possess qualifications and skills that do not match labour market demands in the EU, resulting in underemployment and youths will not realize the dreams of their career.

6.6 On that note, Eswatini delegates shared their holistic youth programme focused on education for employability, led by institutions such as the Eswatini University of Technology, which also promotes safe and orderly youth mobility. Similar experiences were also shared by other delegates, including Zimbabwean delegates, who highlighted the Zimbabwe Open University's active participation in the Erasmus+ programme, which offers skills training in green technology.

6.7 Regarding challenges affecting youths, delegates noted that opportunities for education and mobility remain inaccessible to many

youths from remote rural communities in Africa, costly visas, limited legal migration routes, forcing many young people to use unsafe and irregular migration pathways.

6.8 Delegates observed that youth education and mobility even in Africa are shaped by a mix of structural barriers and emerging opportunities: poverty, gender inequality, conflict and weak infrastructure limit access, while regional integration policies and cross-border programmes are increasingly enabling intra-African student movement.

6.9 EU parliamentarians, on the other hand, emphasized that youth mobility should be properly regulated and managed in order to reduce irregular migration and the abuse of student mobility pathways. Furthermore, EU delegates called for balanced exchange programmes that promote “brain circulation” instead of brain drain. They also encouraged EU countries, as partners of Africa, to listen more carefully and respond more effectively to the concerns of African students.

6.10 In unison, delegates urged African and European countries to ease visa conditions, support university exchange programmes,

promote the free movement of youths, goods and services within Africa and between Africa and the EU, and support safe and orderly migration.

7.0 WOMEN FORUM: “Empowering Women in agriculture Value Chains as a driver of Economic Development”.

7.1 All delegates reached consensus that across Africa, women’s access to land, funding, markets and opportunities in the agro-value chain systems continue to be constrained by gender gaps. Therefore, they unanimously called for greater investment in women’s training in entrepreneurship, with particular emphasis on young women and persons with disabilities.

7.2 Mrs. L. Philips, Director of Partnerships and UN Collaboration at the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, in a video address, highlighted that women and girls are the backbone of agricultural productivity, sustaining food security and livelihoods.

7.3 She noted that their contributions within agro-value chains remain heavily undervalued, despite women constituting 21 percent of

the agricultural labor force in Europe, 76 percent in Africa and 40 percent globally.

7.4 She emphasized the urgent need to improve women's access to labor, land and decision-making, and to strengthen their involvement in agricultural value chains, a responsibility she stressed parliamentarians can fulfill through their legislative and representative roles.

7.5 Hon. M. Mutsvangwa, Minister of Women Affairs, Community and SMEs Development, praised the Samoa Agreement as a renewed partnership between Africa and the EU, stressing that its success depends on agro-systems built on equal participation and full recognition of women's contributions.

7.6 She reminded delegates that women smallholder farmers remain excluded from regional and international markets, and lamented that middlemen in agro-value chains continue to exploit women producers. She urged parliamentarians to address this challenge in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

7.7 Delegates from Eswatini reported that smallholder women farmers face limited mechanisation, lack of skills and climate

vulnerabilities. They outlined a programme designed to transition women agri-producers into large-scale commercial farmers through strengthened policy and legislative frameworks, joint title deed registration and access to concessionary loans.

7.8 Senegal's delegation reiterated the need for improved access to loans, digital technology and training, while Rwanda shared its progress: that women's land ownership now stands at 94 percent alongside expanded access to loans and subsidies.

7.9 Delegates from Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Benin, Kenya and several EU parliamentarians collectively underscored the importance of AU–EU collaboration in supporting women's endeavors across the agricultural value chain, from farm to fork, ensuring value addition and inclusive growth.

8.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE AFRICA-EU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

8.1 During the exchange of views regarding the Draft Recommendations to the Africa-EU Council of Ministers, serious divisions emerged between Africa and EU delegates.

8.2 The first area of contention was the recital section on non-discrimination, which included language affirming rights on the basis of sexual orientation. The EU insisted that the principle of non-discrimination must apply universally, including to LGBTQI individuals who they argued should be guaranteed equal rights. Most African countries opposed this provision, viewing it as a pathway to legalising homosexuality and considered it contrary to African cultural norms and religious traditions.

8.3 The second division concerned peace and security in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The EU and DR Congo was of the position that the M23 rebel group should be explicitly named in the text, given its significant role in destabilising the DRC and the wider Great Lakes region. Rwanda strongly opposed singling out M23, stressing that the conflict involves multiple armed groups and that focusing only on M23 was unfair. The DRC, however, insisted that M23's role must be acknowledged directly, reflecting the deep rift between the two neighboring states.

8.4 The third disagreement revolved around UN Security Council reform. Africa called on the EU to support its longstanding

demand for a permanent seat with veto powers, arguing that global governance must reflect Africa's demographic and geopolitical weight. The EU countered that Africa should also support its own bid for a permanent seat. African delegates rejected this as unfair "double dipping," pointing out that EU member states such as France already hold permanent seats. Granting the EU another seat, they argued, would reinforce imbalance rather than correct it.

8.5 The fourth and final area of dispute was the Russia–Ukraine conflict. The EU pressed for language explicitly condemning Russia as the aggressor and expressed concern about reports of African nationals being recruited under false pretenses to fight in the war. African countries resisted being drawn into what they saw as a Cold War-style confrontation. They argued that the EU and its allies, including the USA, have themselves violated human rights and international law in places such as Libya, Venezuela, Iran, Iraq and Palestine, causing displacement and suffering. Africa insisted on its right to waive this provision, maintaining neutrality and protecting its diplomatic independence.

8.6 After protracted dialogue and debate that stretched into the following afternoon, with delegates breaking into small caucus groups to seek compromise, agreement was eventually reached.

8.7 On the Russia–Ukraine conflict, African delegates expressed solidarity with displaced people, particularly women, children and persons with disabilities, and emphasized their support for a peaceful resolution through dialogue and negotiations in line with UN principles and international law. In the same text, EU delegates aligned themselves with strong wording condemning Russian aggression against Ukraine.

8.8 On the sensitive issue of LGBTQI rights, African countries secured language guaranteeing them the right to waive this provision, a safeguard also provided for in the Samoa Agreement. This delicate balance allowed both sides to preserve their positions while moving forward with a unified set of recommendations.

8.9 Taken together, these divisions underscore the fault lines in Africa–EU relations. At the same time, they highlight Africa’s determination to assert sovereignty and resist external pressure, while the EU continues to push for universal principles and alignment with

its geopolitical stance. The Eswatini meeting therefore, revealed the ongoing challenge of transforming Africa–EU relations from a donor–recipient dynamic into a genuine partnership of equals.

9.0 CLOSING CEREMONY

9.1 During the closing session, Co-President of the Africa–EU Parliamentary Assembly Hilde Vautmans stressed that differences of opinion in negotiations should be seen as progress, noting that Africa and the EU are beginning to understand one another better, even if discussions sometimes involve arguments or heated exchanges.

9.2 In his closing statement, Prince Lindani, representing His Majesty King Mswati III, emphasized that the true measure of success of the Africa-EU joint parliamentary meeting would not be the words on paper but the tangible impact of the resolutions on ordinary people’s lives. He cautioned that resolutions must translate into action, reminding delegates that climate change, youth unemployment, and instability do not wait.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Youth Mobility and Education

10.1.1 Expand equitable access: Parliamentarians should ensure that education and mobility programmes reach rural and underprivileged youth, decentralising initiatives like Erasmus+ so that opportunities are not limited to urban or elite groups.

10.1.2 Harmonize qualifications: Align education standards, qualifications, and migration policies across Africa and the EU to make student and professional mobility smoother, while easing visa requirements for safe and legal movement.

10.1.3 Invest in digital skills: Strengthen youth employability by funding education in digital skills, innovation, and vocational training, ensuring young people are prepared for modern labour markets and entrepreneurship.

10.1.4 Promote safe migration: Develop policies that expand legal migration pathways, encourage intra-African mobility, and support returning graduates and professionals to contribute to national and continental development.

10.1.5 Support inclusive exchanges: Facilitate regional and international youth exchange opportunities, promote meaningful youth participation in governance, and build partnerships between

Africa and the EU so that mobility strengthens sustainable development rather than draining skilled human capital.

10.2 Women Forum: Empowering Women in agriculture

Value Chains as a driver of Economic Development.

10.2.1 Strengthen land and resource rights: Parliament should pass laws which guarantee women's secure access to land through joint title deed registration, equitable inheritance laws, and supportive policy frameworks.

10.2.2 Expand financial inclusion: Parliament should promote policy and legislative frameworks which increase women's access to concessionary loans, subsidies and digital financial services.

10.2.3 Promote women market access and fair trade: African and EU parliamentarians should collaborate and promote mechanisms to connect women farmers directly to regional and international markets, bypassing exploitative middlemen.

10.2.4 Invest in skills and technology: Scale up training in entrepreneurship, digital literacy, and climate-smart agriculture with a focus on young women and persons with disabilities.

10.3 The Role of Regional Organisations and their Parliaments in Peace and Security in Africa

10.3.1 Strengthen preventive diplomacy: National parliaments should build systems for early warning, dialogue, and mediation to address tensions before they escalate into violence.

10.3.2 Promote inclusive governance: Peace requires the active participation of youths, women, and minority groups, parliaments must ensure inclusive representation and policies that reduce marginalisation, unemployment and vulnerability to radicalisation.

10.3.3 Invest in peace financing: Both African and EU parliaments should support mechanisms such as the African Union Peace Fund (AUPF) and allocate resources for conflict prevention, peace-building and reconstruction while ensuring transparency and accountability.

10.3.4 Defend the rule of law: Parliaments must safeguard human rights, uphold international law, and counter misinformation while exercising strong oversight to prevent democratic backsliding and foster trust between governments and citizens.

10.3.5 Foster regional cooperation: African and EU

parliaments should together work through regional assemblies, share lessons learned and jointly address root causes of conflict such as resource competition, foreign interference and illicit financial networks.

HON. SEN. CHAPFUDZA: Thank you Mr. President. I rise also to highlight the importance of the visit by the Zimbabwean Parliamentary Delegation to the OACPS African Regional Parliamentary Group meeting and the First African-EU Parliamentary Assembly held at Ezulwini Palazzo, Eswatini from 7 to 14 May 2026.

Mr. President, this was not merely an international parliamentary visit. It was an important platform through which Zimbabwe participated in shaping Africa's common position on matters affecting continents and our people. The meeting represented a historic milestone in implementing the parliamentary dimension of the Samoa Agreement and demonstrated the shift in Africa-EU relations from the traditional donor-recipient model towards a partnership based on mutual respect, shared priorities and equal participation.

One of the greatest benefits of this visit was that Zimbabwe had an opportunity to put forward its national and continental interests directly before Africa and European parliamentarians. Zimbabwean parliamentarians participated in discussions concerning peace and security, youth empowerment, agriculture, climate change, trade, industrialisation, governance and resource mobilisation. This is important because decisions made at regional and international levels can have a direct impact on our citizens. Zimbabwe therefore needs to be present at such platforms to ensure that our interests are understood, represented and defended.

Mr. President, this reinforced the importance of Africa speaking with one voice. Delegates from Southern Africa emphasised the need for a common African position on youth empowerment, poverty eradication, democracy, climate justice, rural development, governance and resource mobilisation.

For Zimbabwe, this is particularly important because individual African countries often have limited bargaining power when negotiating with large international partners. When Africa negotiates collectively, we strengthen our ability to demand fairer trade and

investment, financing and development partnerships. Zimbabwe used the meeting to strongly advocate for local value addition and the beneficiation of Africa's raw materials. This is critical Mr. President for Zimbabwe, because our country is endowed with significant mineral resources. On this, Mr. President, there is something called dependency theory. The dependency theory highlights those African countries; they often donate or give raw materials to European countries which are processed there and forever and ever, African countries will dependent on European countries for finished goods.

So, I think this gives a good platform for Zimbabwe to air out its position that in the past four months when there was an introduction of value addition on the lithium that we have, that is a move in the right direction in value addition so that we move from the dependency syndrome. This is a critical issue for Zimbabwe because our countries are endowed with significant mineral resources. We cannot continue exporting raw materials and importing finished products at much higher prices.

The Zimbabwean delegation therefore correctly emphasised the need for mutual beneficial trade agreements that support

industrialisation, value addition and beneficiation with Africa. The importance of this position cannot be overstated. Our minerals must continue to contribute to employment, technology, transfer, industrial development and improved livelihood for Zimbabweans.

Another important outcome was the recognition of OACPS. It must develop independent and sustainable funding mechanisms. Who gives you funds is your boss. So, the OACPS delegate agreed on the need to reduce over-reliance on the European Union and proposed a member state contribution based on economic capacity.

This is important because genuine partnership requires financial independence. Mr. President, Africa must be able to determine its own priorities and finance its own institutions rather than depending excessively on external partners. The proposal strengthened OACPS funding. Therefore, it is an important step towards Africa ownership and reliance. Mr. President, peace and security were central to the discussion. The visit gave Zimbabwe an opportunity to participate in the discussion on conflict prevention, terrorism, extremism, early warning systems, preventing diplomacy and regional cooperation.

On that note Mr. President, there was also the issue of the youth dimension on the visit that was particularly significant. Africa is the world's largest population and the meeting recognised that young people must be at the centre of Africa's development agenda. The discussion addressed youth unemployment, education, skills development, migration and innovation mobility.

There is also the issue of providing an important platform to discuss the economic empowerment of women. There was an issue that was raised in this discussion that Africa has got its own culture, so we should also preserve our culture. Women forum focused on empowering women in agriculture value chain as a driver of economic development. Delegates highlighted the barriers involving access to land, finance markets, technology and training. This is directly relevant to Zimbabwe because women play a critical role in agriculture and rural livelihoods.

The recommendations on joint title deeds, access to conditional loans; on this one Mr. President, I have got a different opinion. We are talking of culture and we have got our African culture. We have got the family. The family has got the father as the head, so we are not

talking of co-ownership of title deeds. If the father has got the title deeds, all of the members of the family belong to that title deed. So, my support to this is, we should just have a strong family bond, not a decision that divides families – [HON.SEN. MLOTSHWA: *Aah, Senator Chapfudza, what is this?*] – - [*Laughter*] – I am just emphasising and reinforcing on the issue of culture, the African culture which recognises fathers as heads of families.

Mr. President, I would like to just thank all the delegates that went to represent us in Eswatini. It was quite an important meeting, so was our representation there, I applaud it. Thank you Mr. President.

HON. S. MOYO: Thank you Mr. President, for giving me this opportunity to add my views to this report. I rise on behalf of the people of Matabeleland South. I rise on behalf of the cotton farmers in Gwanda who no longer has a chance to take this crop to the mother in Beitbridge who has watched her children across the border to look for work. I rise for the organised Zimbabweans who sent us here to check and not to clap the hands.

This report tells us that our delegation travelled to Eswatini and sat with brothers and sisters from across Africa and Europe. They

spoke about peace, youth, women in farming and trade. Those are the good subjects, Mr. President, but the report is not judged by the beauty of its words. It is judged by what changed our people back home. That is the test I will apply today Mr. President.

In short, this report covers five things. First, the OACP, Southern African Region, Mente and Zimbabwe's own Lieutenant General Retired, M. Nyambuya was elected Chairperson.

Two, the Bureau of African Region Parliament Group discussed reforms, including moving OACP headquarters away from Europe and finding it independent.

Three, the Assembly was officially opened by representatives of the Kingdom of Eswatini, with a strong talk of a new equal partnership between Africa and the EU.

Four, the delegates debated peace and security, youth, mobility and women in agriculture.

Number five, most telling Mr. President, delegates fought in the IEU that went over four issues before they could agree on a recommendation. Sexual orientation rights, the naming of the M23 rebels group in Congo, United Nations Security Council reform and

the war in Ukraine. I will come back to that fourth point, Mr.

President, because it tells us a great deal about how this should be called partnership and equality.

Let me be fair Mr. President, because fairness is the mark of the serious Senate. I welcome the call for our own Zimbabwean delegates for local value addition and a beneficiation of our raw materials instead of shipping out unprocessed minerals and crops for other countries to profit from.

I welcome the independence of OACP funding so that Africa is not forever begging at the EU table. I welcome the resolution that OACP report must be tabled before national Parliament within 90 days so that we the elected representatives of the people could hold our own Government to account. I welcome the attention given to women, farmers and to our youth who are the majority of the nation.

Those are the correct positions Mr. President. My concern is not with the weight of the page. My concern is with what this Government does after the aeroplane lands back home.

Mr. President, allow me to raise the red flag. I found in this report a reason not to attack any individual, but to question the policy and the pattern, because this is the proper role of this Senate.

First, find ways of value addition, but the ginneries at home are glossy. Our delegates stood up in Eswatini and called for the beneficiaries of Africa's raw materials. I support that call, Mr. President. Right here in Zimbabwe, cotton ginneries have been shutting down. Farmers are going for a season without being paid on time and we continue to export raw lint instead of finished cloth.

We cannot create lead-free value-addition in Eswatini while we are exporting our raw cotton and raw materials at home. Charity and credibility begin at home.

Secondly, there should be praise for youth mobility for those youths who are going abroad and silence on the youths who are fleeing from home. This report celebrates Zimbabwe Open University participating in the Erasmus+ Programme. That is good, but this same report is silent on the deeper crisis. Thousands of our nurses, doctors, teachers and engineers are leaving this country every year. Not for exchange programmes but because they see no future here.

The Government that celebrates a managed youth mobility programme abroad must answer why it cannot stop the disorderly exodus of its own trained citizens at home.

Thirdly, the 90 days rule must not become another forgotten promise. Paragraphs 3 and 4 of this report say OACPS meeting reports must be tabled before National Parliament within 90 days to strengthen accountability. Mr. President, Zimbabwe has signed many such commitments before, regionally and continentally and many have gathered dust. I ask this House to warn the Government not to sit on this resolution, 90 days from the close of that meeting on the 14th May 2026 has already passed.

Where are the implementation matrices? Where is the accountability the Government itself agreed to in Eswatini? Mr. President, raising red flags is not enough. This side of the House does not come here only to complain. We come here with a solution. I, therefore, move this Senate to resolve as follows:

Future OACPS, SADC, AU and Commonwealth delegates must include Members of Parliament from opposition benches on a proportional basis so that Zimbabwe can speak with one voice abroad.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development must present to this House within 60 days, a plan to reopen and rehabilitate closed cotton ginneries, guarantee payment to farmers and expand access to drought tolerance seed varieties so that our call for value addition abroad is matched by value addition at home.

The Government must publish the full cost of this in the future to international delegates in the interest of transparency to the taxpayers.

The Public Service Commission and the Minister of Health must report to this House on a retention strategy for nurses, doctors and teachers so that we address the root cause pushing our youth to leave rather than only celebrating those who leave through formal exchange programmes.

The Senator must take the Portfolio Commitment on Foreign Affairs to trace and publish where Zimbabwe meets the 90-day tabling commitment made by our own delegates in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the report for every future OACPS meeting.

My closing remarks, Mr. President. Prince Lindani closing that meeting in Eswatini, reminded delegates that the true measure of success is not the weight on the paper but the tangible impact on the lives of ordinary people. I ask this Honourable House to hold those weights closely.

The people of Matabeleland South, indeed the people of Zimbabwe, are not asking for another report to sit on the shelf. They are asking for cotton ginneries that work, for hospitals that have medicine, for young people who do not have to cross a border to find a future and for a Government that practices abroad the same respect for the people's voice that it demands the world show to Africa.

Mr. President, I support the noting of this report but I do not support the silence after it. Let the Senate be the place where fine words from Eswatini are turned into real change for the people who sent us here. I thank you Mr. President.

HON. SEN. MLOTSWA: I move that the debate do now adjourn.

HON. SEN. MDHLURI: I second.

Motion put and agreed to.

Debate to resume: Thursday, 3rd September, 2026.

*On the motion of **HON. SEN. MUZENDA**, seconded by **HON. SEN. GOTORA**, the Senate adjourned at Twenty Eight Minutes past Four o'clock p.m.*